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long run and he had also caused an estimate to be prepared. He requested that the Government might be pleased to consider the question favorably and sanction the railway, if at all possible. If, for any reasons, that was not practicable, the Member requested that the road from Alleppey to Arukuttty might be improved so that, with private capital, the people might endeavour to ply a motor car between the two places. He further prayed that the canal already sanctioned be soon constructed and also that the village road from Alleppey to Thanneermukkom be improved and made cartable. These latter improvements were, he said, absolutely necessary in the absence of the railway proposed by him.

The Member then said that, in reference to the petition which the merchants of Mukamba in Thanneermukkom had addressed the Government, he had received a telegram from them asking him to place before the Assembly the urgent necessity of deepening and improving the canal leading to the Mukamba market. The canal was constructed by the Government, but, owing to the absence of a sufficient depth of water, there was great difficulty in taking boats laden with articles of trade along the canal. He requested the early attention of the Government to the work.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

71. Improvement of the Poochakkal Canal.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidhani Thangal (Member, Nominated) said that the Poochakkal Canal, about 3 miles in length, connected the Vycome and Shertallai taluks. It was constructed at Government cost and was now covered up with sand and silt here and there for want of regular repair. As the canal was a great help to agriculture, trade and communication, and would specially benefit both the Vycome and Shertalai taluks, he requested that it might be improved at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

72. Improvement of certain canals and the construction of roads and bridges.

Mr. Rayiran Kesava Kymal (Member, Vycome Taluk) stated that the extensive areas of wet lands lying on the eastern side of the Vaikam Taluk and of the Vetchur Poverthy, on which the ryots raised *Virippu*, *Mundakan* and *Puncha* cultivation, were being damaged annually by the floods coming through the Muvattupuzha and Meenachil rivers and their tributaries. The canals, which had been cut for taking off the water to the backwaters, were not sufficiently broad and deep. The adjoining lands were in consequence invariably submerged in water during the rainy season and the ryots suffered much loss. He particularly mentioned the case of the Vellayil Thodu and the Anchumun Thodu

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and said that, if those two canals were widened and deepened, it would be affording a permanent protection to the wet lands. He therefore requested that the work might be ordered to be taken up and completed at an early date.

The Member also requested that a proper road should be constructed so as to connect Kottayam with Vetchur, either through Kumarakom or through Olesha and Parippu, and also three bridges on the road from Vycome to Vetchur. The bridges were required over the Maramvettil Thodu, the Vellayil Thodu and the Anchumuna Thodu.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

73. Opening of a canal near the Lekshmi-puram Market.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the Lekshmipuram Market, opened five or six years ago, was decreasing in importance on account of the absence of proper roads and canals in the vicinity. In view to develop the market, he requested that a canal be opened near the market, connecting the *pincha* lands in the eastern and western parts of the Nattagom Proverthy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

74. Widening of the canal from Kollappalli Padom to Parakal Kadavu.

Mr. Parameswaran Iravi (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) said that about 30,000 paras of paddy lands in the taluk depended for water upon a small canal, about 12 miles long, running through the midst of these lands from Kollappalli Padom in the Kurumbaredam Kara in the Changanacherry taluk to the Parakal Kadavu in the Nattagom Proverthy in the Kottayam taluk. The canal was in many places narrow, silted up and shallow. Six canals from the Changanacherry taluk and seven canals from the Kottayam taluk entered this canal as tributaries. The canal in question being very narrow, the large volume of water that found its way into the canal overflowed both the banks, and much damage was caused to the cultivated lands on either side, to the great hardship of the ryots. The Member said that the improvement of this canal was one of the eleven works (No. 5) recommended by the Members of the Kottayam Division at the Fifth Assembly, and it was thus engaging the attention of the Government. He requested that the canal might be extended by another three miles and the work expedited, as the canal, if improved, would be of great use not only to agriculture, but also to trade and communication, and also for bathing and drinking purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

75. Means of communication in the Meenachil taluk.

Mr. C. Mathan Mappilla (Member, Meenachil Taluk) said that the people of the Meenachil taluk were all